



# COMMUNICATE SAFE BOATING TO YOUR CUSTOMERS

It's important in these times that you as a business are doing everything you can to be safe. That includes not only how you run your own operations, but also how you educate your customers about boating safely. As we have already seen, the definition of boating responsibly has changed, and if people aren't respecting the rules, it can be quickly shut down.

## Let the customers know that following these guidelines can:

- Lead to responsible boating, which is a great way of social distancing and enjoying quality time with family
- Result in a healthy day outdoors on the boat
- Increase the chances they will continue to be allowed to use their boats
- Improve the likelihood you will be able to stay open and service your customers
- Prevent irresponsible behavior that gets noticed by the media and public officials

## Get ready to go boating

In addition to sunscreen, pack sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and disposable gloves. Use gloves when handling shared lines, dock carts and fuel pumps. Pack all your food and drinks — chances are your favorite places to stop will be closed.

## Navigating the Boat Ramp

Get your boat ready to launch away from others. Have only your crew handle the lines when backing down the ramp to launch. Normal boat ramp etiquette is a perfect method of keeping your distance from other boaters. While your crew boards the boat, the vehicle driver parks the rig and directly boards the boat and clears the ramp.

## Arriving at the Marina

Don't gather at the marina. The marina has always been a social magnet, but for the short term, it should only serve as your gateway to the water. Take a direct route to your boat. Avoid entering the ship store, boat shop or marina office unless you've made a prior one-on-one appointment or in case of emergency.

## Wet Slips

Limit your slip space to only your crew. Avoid the common courtesy of helping others with their lines or accepting help unless there is an immediate need to avoid injury or damage. Wash your hands or use sanitizer after handling someone else's boat or lines.

## High and Dry

Before requesting your boat to be launched, make sure you and your crew are totally ready to get away from the dock as soon as your boat is put into the water. Stay away from others waiting for their boats to launch. Consider launching on a schedule to avoid multiple crews waiting for their boats.

## On the Water

Do not raft up or beach your boat with other boats. Even if you know the others on the other boat, rafting can create an unsafe environment, and, in some states, this activity has led to officials closing access to the water. Anchoring close enough for your boat to swing without hitting other boats is a safe distance. Find a secluded spot away from others to relax. Otherwise, cruise, sail, fish, ski, jump wakes, or drag the kids until it is time to relax!

## Returning to the dock

Follow the same guidelines as launching your boat. This is not the time for fish stories back on the dock. Square away your boat and keep moving home.

Please check with your local authorities about rules, regulations and guidance for your customers social distancing themselves on their boat. The MRAA provides this for informational purposes only, is not undertaking to provide specific professional advice and assumes no liability or responsibility in connection with the use or misuse of the resources or information included.

